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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/689,710

10/22/2003

Hiroyuki Taguchi

SHO-0018

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08/24/2004

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EXAMINER

TSUKERMAN, LARISA Z

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 08/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/689,710

Applicant(s)

TAGUCHI, HIROYUKI

Examiner

Larisa Z Tsukerman

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 7-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 October 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Attachment</u> . |

DETAILED ACTION***Specification***

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: because reference character "33" has been used to designate both a "buried portion" "(dash line in Fig.3) and a "lead wire connection portion" (see page 10, lines 3-5).

Appropriate correction is required.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to because the claimed "main body" (claim 1 and 9) not designated. Corrected drawing sheets are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of

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any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

a **first conductor portion 2** for connecting the card housed in **the housing space**

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1,4-8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hirata (5984698).

In regard to claim 1, Hirata **discloses a connector** (not marked) for connecting a **grounded board 6**, the connector having a **card** (not shown) and a **housing 3** for housing the card, the **housing 3** comprising:

a non-conductive housing main **body** (not marked) having a housing **space 4** for housing the card;

contact 1 for connecting the card housed in housing space 4, the contact 1 being disposed in the housing main body (see Fig.3); and

a **first conductor portion 2** for connecting the card housed in **the housing space 4**, the first conductor portion 2 being disposed in the housing main body and insulated from the contact (see Col. 3, lines 40-50 and Fig. 3), and

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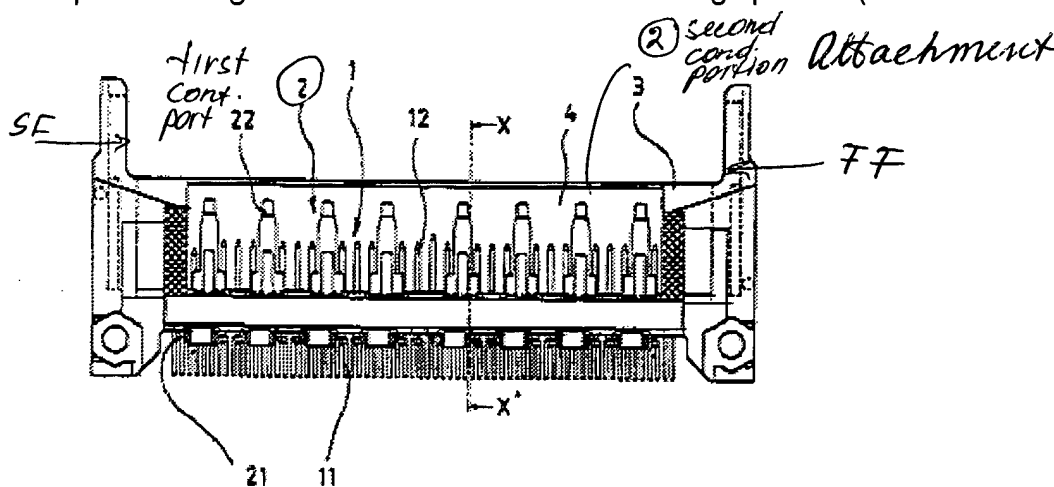
whereby the first conductor portion escaping electric charge electrified on the card to the board when connected to the card and the board.

With regard to the limitation of **claim 9** of having "an electronic component having a connector", it is an **inherent function** of the connector to be connected to the electronic component, and MPEP 2100 states that the disclosure of a limitation may be expressed, implicit or **inherent**.

In regard to claim 7, Hirata discloses the board 6 is a printed wiring board, as claimed

In regard to claim 8, Hirata discloses the contact 1 is for connecting the board 6.

In regard to claim 4, Hirata discloses a second conductor portion 2 disposed along a **second side face SF** of the housing space 4; wherein the first conductor portion 2 is disposed along a first side face FF of the housing space 4 (see Attachment).



In regard to claim 5, Hirata discloses the card is substantially rectangular (because of the space shape in Fig.1) and the **first and second conductor** portions are **symmetrically** disposed about the direction of inserting the card.

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Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Trush et al. (5425651).

In regard to claim 1, Trush et al. **discloses a connector 10** for connecting a **grounded board 6**, the connector having a **card 4** and a **housing 10** for housing the card 4, the **housing 10** comprising:

a non-conductive housing main **body** (not marked) having a housing **space** (not marked, area 14) for housing the card 4;

contact 30b for connecting the card housed 4 in housing space (area 14), the contact 30b being disposed in the housing main body (see Fig.3); and

a **first conductor portion 30a** for connecting the card housed in **the housing space (area 14)**, the first conductor portion 30a being disposed in the housing main body and insulated from the contact 30b (see 1 Fig. 4), and

whereby the first conductor portion escaping electric charge electrified on the card to the board when connected to the card and the board.

In regard to claim 2, Trush et al. discloses the first conductor portion 30a is disposed in a position to connect the card 4, which is not housed in the housing space (area 14, see Fig.3).

In regard to claim 3, Trush et al. discloses the first conductor portion 30a is for connect an edge of the card (see Fig.3).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 6 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the limitation found in claim 6 are neither disclosed nor taught by the prior art of record, alone or in combination. The current art of record does not disclose the limitations of "each of the first and second conductor portions has a flexible portion elastically deformable outside and a lock piece disposed along the flexible portion ..., whereby the lock pieces is pushed by the card to open outside when the card is inserted into the housing space, and the lock pieces lock the card when the card is housed in the housing space" in combination with the other limitations recited in claims 1 and 5.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Watanabe (6692271), EP 0228278, Lai et al. (6027348), Kusakabe (5299946), Thrush et al. (5425651), Belanger, Jr, et al. (4812947), Kobayashi et al. (6413109), Perkins et al. (5398154), Banakis et al. (5725394), Kaufman et al. (5308251), Huang (6074223), Yu (6077088,6475005).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Larisa Z Tsukerman whose telephone number is (571)-

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272-2015. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A Bradley can be reached on (571)-272-2800 ex. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LT
08/19/04


THO D. TA
PRIMARY EXAMINER